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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 MMS-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 EUR-12 EA-06 /091 W
---------- 046541
P 260029Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6393
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 1719

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROP SHUM PFOR MX CI
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN THE
CRIMES OF THE CHILEAN MILITARY JUNTA.

REFS: A) MEXICO 291 B) MEXICO 552 C) MEXICO 1480
D) MEXICO 1570 E) MEXICO 1635

BEGIN SUMMARY: SUBJECT COMMISSION MET IN MEXICO CITY
FEBRUARY 18-21 FOR ITS THIRD SESSION (FIRST WAS IN
HELSINKI AND SECOND IN COPENHAGEN). STARTING WITH
PRESIDENT ECHEVERIA'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THIS
MEETING, THE COMMISSION FOCUSED ITS CRITICISM AS MUCH
ON THE ALLEGED USG ROLE IN THE OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE AS
ON THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE
PINOCHET-LED MILITARY JUNTA. THE COMMISSION RECEIVED
EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE IN MEXICO
DESPITE ITS LACK OF OBJECTIVITY AND BALANCE AND ITS
CONSIDERABLE COMMUNIST COMPONENT. IN ITS FINAL
DECLARATION, THE COMMISSION CALLED FOR THE DIPLOMATIC
ISLOATION OF THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT AND FOR INTERNATIONAL
DENUNCIATION OF THE USG FOR ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATING IN
THE CHILEAN COUP. END SUMMARY.

1. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION: FROM THE FIRST PUBLIC
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INFORMATION ON SUBJECT, IT HAS BEEN OBVIOUS THAT

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COMMUNISTS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE A SUB-
STANTIAL ROLE IN THE COMMISSION. AS REFTEL A REPORTED,
DR. SAMUEL ZIVS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET ASSOCIATION
OF JURISTS, WAS A KEY FIGURE IN MUCH OF THE PLANNING
AND PREPARATION FOR THE COMMISSION. THE SOVIETS AND
COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS OF EASTERN EUROPE (BUT NOT
YUGOSLAVIA, SEE BELOW) AND CUBA SENT LARGE GROUPS TO
PARTICIPATE. ADDITIONALLY THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF
OTHER COUNTRIES (E.G. MEXICO AND JAPAN) AS WELL AS
INTERNATIONAL FRONT ORGANIZATIONS (SUCH AS THE INTER-
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS, THE WORLD
FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH, AND THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN) WERE ALL REPRESENTED ON
THE COMMISSION.

2. WHILE THE RULING PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO INSTITUCIONAL
(PRI) AND OTHER NON-COMMUNIST GROUPS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN
THE COMMISSION, AND IN DOING SO SOMEWHAT MUTED ITS RED
TINGE, (BUT ALSO GAVE IT A CERTAIN AIR OF RESPECTABILITY,
HOWEVER THEN) IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ORGANIZERS CAREFULLY
SELECTED PARTICIPANTS WHO WERE CRITICS OF THE CHILEAN JUNTA
AND EITHER NOT INTERESTED IN RAISING OR ORGANIZATIONALLY
TOO WEAK TO RAISE TROUBLESOME QUESTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE,
THE ORGANIZERS INVITED ALL OF THE LEFT-LEANING PARTIES AND
POLITICAL GROUPS IN MEXICO BUT TURNED A DEAF EAR TO THE
REQUEST OF THE STRONGEST OPPOSITION PARTY (I.E. PARTIDO
ACCION NATIONAL -- PAN) THAT IT BE INVITED BECAUSE
THEY PERCEIVED THAT THE PAN LEADERSHIP WAS CRITICAL
OF SINGLING OUT THE PINOCHET REGIME FOR CONDEMNATION
AND ARGUED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE OBJECTIVE
AND CONDEMN LARGE-SCALE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN SUCH PLACES AS CUBA, THE SOVIET UNION, AND BRAZIL.

3. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S PARTICIPATION: THE PRESENCE
OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND OTHER RANKING OFFICIALS OF
THE GOM (SEE REFTEL C, PARA 2) AT THE OPENING SESSION
FEBRUARY 18 BOTH DREW MUCH MORE ATTENTION TO THE
COMMISSION THAN IT WOULD HAVE ENJOYED OTHERWISE AND
GAVE IT A MUCH GREATER AURA OF RESPECTABILITY. IN HIS
SPEECH ECHEVERRIA SINGLED THE USG OUT FOR PARTICULARLY
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STINGING CRITICISM FOR ALLEGEDLY INTERVENING IN CHILEAN
INTERNAL POLITICS TO BRING ABOUT THE OVERTHROW OF THE
ALLENDE GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATE
INTERESTS (REFTELS C AND D). MOREOVER, THE MEXICAN CHIEF
OF STATE MADE NO MENTION AT ALL OF ANY VIOLATIONS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS OR OF THE MILITARY JUNTA IN CHILE. ON
FEBRUARY 21, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA RECEIVED THE MEMBERS OF
THE COMMISSION AT LOS PINOS, HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE,

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THEREBY AGAIN LENDING HIS PRESTIGE TO THIS GROUP AND ITS
CONCLUSIONS.

4. TESTIMONY: THE LEADER OF THE DEFUNCT CENTRAL UNICA
DE TRABAJADORES OF CHILE, LUIS FIGUEROA, SUMMARIZED THE
ALLEGED VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE PINOCHET
REGIME AS FOLLOWS: "IN 17 MONTHS, A NATION OF A LITTLE
MORE THAN 10 MILLION INHABITANTS HAS SUFFERED THE MURDER
OR DISAPPEARANCE OF 30,000 PEOPLE, HAS SEEN MORE THAN
120,000 IMPRISONED, AND HAS WATCHED AS ANOTHER 14,000
HAVE HAD TO LEAVE FOR EXILE." HE ALSO ACCUSED THE PINOCHET
GOVERNMENT OF EMPLOYING NUMEROUS METHODS OF TORTURE INCLUDING
"ELECTRIC SHOCKS, ESPECIALLY TO PRIVATE ORGANS, THE MOUTH
AND HEAD; BLOWS AND BEATINGS; BURNS WITH ACID AND
CIGARETTES;...INGESTION OF URINE OR EXREMENT; SEXUAL OUTRAGES;
PRESENCE AT THE TORTURES OR SEXUAL OUTRAGES OF FAMILY
MEMBERS;..."

5. WHILE THE FOCUS OF MOST OF THE ACCUSATIONS DURING THE
"TESTIMONY" WAS ON THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT, THE USG DID
NOT GO UNSCATHED. GUILLERMO TORIELLO GARRIDO, GUATEMALAN
FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JACOBO
ARBENZ WHICH WAS "OVERTHROWN BY AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE
CIA AND THE UNITED FRUIT (COMPANY)", ALLEGED THAT IN HIS
COUNTRY "THE RESISTANCE STILL HAS NOT BEEN SUPPRESSED AND
THE SAME ATROCITIES ARE COMMITTED AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS AS
ARE COMMITTED IN CHILE."

6. US CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL HARRINGTON ATTENDED AND SPOKE
AT THE LAST DAY OF THE MEETINGS IN MEXICO AND GAVE
A 40-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 21. (NOTE:
FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION BACK TO ENGLISH OF REPORTS
APPEARING IN SPANISH IN EL SOL AND EXCELSIOR FEBRUARY 22.
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POUCHING BOTH ARTICLES TO ARA/MEX.) IN RESPONSE TO A
QUESTION ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL PLANS TO INVESTIGATE THE CIA,
HE REPORTEDLY REPLIED: "THE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN
SUFFICIENTLY AGGRESSIVE. FIRST THEY WERE INTERRUPTED
BY NIXON, AND THEN SUSPENDED FOR HISTORIC MORAL (?)
QUESTIONS. ...NOW THERE WILL BE NO INVESTIGATION OF
THE CIA ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA..." (QUESTION MARK
AND OMISSION IN QUOTATION PUBLISHED IN EL COL.)

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 MMS-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 EUR-12 EA-06 /091 W
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P 260029Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6394
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 1719

EXCELSIOR QUOTES HARRINGTON AS SAYING: "I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY, WHILE NIXON AND KISSINGER WERE ACDEPTING PLURALISM AND WERE SITTING WITH LEADERS OF SOCIALIST NATIONS, AT THE SAME TIME AS THEY WERE AUTHORIZING ACTIONS, FIRST TO PREVENT THE RISE OF ALLENDE AND LATER TO DE-STABILIZE HIS GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH WE NOW KNOW A GREAT DEAL, WE DO NOT KNOW EITHER THE REASON FOR THIS INTERVENTION AND IN WHAT FORM IT DEVELOPED." IN CONTRAST TO EL SOL'S REPORT, EXCELSIOR ASSERTS THAT HARRINGTON PRAISED CONGRESS' DECISION TO INVESTIGATE "COVERT ACTIVITIES TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS."

7. FINAL DECLARATION: THE COMMISSION'S CALL FOR THE DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION OF THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT AND INTER-NATIONAL DENUNCIATION OF THE USG'S ALLEGED ROLE IN THE OVERTHROW OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (REF E). OTHER NOTEWORTHY ASSERTIONS OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE:

- IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT ELEMENTS UNDER GENERAL AUGUSTO PINOCHET WERE CONSPRING TO COMMIT TREASON MUCH BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11, 1973.

- THE RULE OF LAW HAS CEASED TO EXIST IN CHILE.

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- THE LIBERATION OF CLODORMIRO ALMEYDA AND OTHER

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POLITICAL PRISONERS IS A TRIUMPH OF WORLD PUBLIC
OPINION, THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR SOLIDARITY WITH
THE CHILEAN PEOPLE, AND THE ACTION WHICH THE COMMISSION
TOOK IN EMERGENCY SESSION IN COPENHAGEN.

- THE MILITARY JUNTA'S USURPATION OF POWER STOPPED
THE PROCESS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS WHICH CONTINUED FOR THREE
YEARS UNDER ALLENDE.

- DESPITE GRAVE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, THE JUNTA HAS
CONSENTED TO NEW COMPENSQTION TO FOREIGN CORPORATIONS
FOR NATIONALIZED PROPERTY.

- THE JUNTA HAS DELIVERED THE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE
OF CHILE, WHICH THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT STRUGGLED TO
ASSURE, BY CONCEDING LARGE FACILITIES TO FOREIGN
CORPORATIONS.

- THE COMMISSION DESCRIBED THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
PATTERN OF EMSGING EVENTS (IN CHILE) AS THOSE OF AN
AUTHENTICALLY FASCIST STATE. (POUCHING PUBLISHED TEXT OF
FINAL DECLARATION AND ASSORTED OTHER COMMISSION DOCUMENTS
TO SANTIAGO AND ARA/MEX).

8. REACTION: YUGOSLAV AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS EXPRESSED
TO AMB JOVA THEIR SURPRISE AT CONTENT OF ECHEVERRIA'S
OPENING SPEECH (I.E., ITS ATTACK ON USG). THE YUGOSLAV
AMB SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SENT REPRESENTATIVE TO
PARTICIPATE IN COMMISSION, WHICH GOY CONSIDERED "SUSPECT"
AND BEING MANIPULATED BY SOVIETS.

9. SOME WHO HAVE COMMENTED ON ECHEVERRIA SPEECH
(INCLUDING FONSEC RABASA) POINT OUT THAT THE LATTER PART
OF THE SPEECH WAS NOT PLEASING TO THE LEFTIST AUDIENCE
AND RECEIVED LITTLE APPLAUSE. (EMBOFF WHO ATTENDED
CONFIRMS THAT THERE WAS LESS APPLAUSE, BUT THIS MAY HAVE
BEEN BECAUSE ECHEVERRIA ACCELERATED DELIVERY TOWARD END
OF TALK AND LEFT LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR APPLAUSE).

10. COMMENT: GOM CLEARLY RECOGNIZED BY END OF MEETING
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THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT WAS SPONSORED AND STAGE-MANAGED
BY RUSSIANS AND CUBANS. IN FACT, GOM WAS PROBABLY AWARE
OF THIS FACTOR BEFORE THE MEETING, BUT CONSIDERED MEXICO'S
INTERESTS NEVERTHELESS SERVED BY PROVIDING PLATFORM FOR
THIS PROPAGANDA AGAINST BOTH THE CHILEAN AND US GOVERNMENTS.
ECHEVERRIA CLEARLY MAKES USE OF LEFTIST CAUSES, ON OCCASION,
TO PRE-EMPT FIELD AND MOLLIFY MEXICAN LEFT. HE REACTIN
ABROAD TO THE MEETING, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE GIVEN GOM PAUSE.

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RABASA HAS BEEN AT SOME PAINS TO EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THE MEETING, DEFENSIVELY ARGUING THAT HOLDING THE CONFERENCE IN MEXICO (AND WITH PARTICIPATION BY ECHEVERRIA) DID NOT CONSTITUTE INTERVENTION. JOVA

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Message Attributes

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